Flooding of foreign goods after the removal of QRs

194. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "with QRs Gone Imports of Tea, Coffee, Spices go up" which appeared in the Hindu dated the 22nd June, 2001;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to control Indian market being flooded by increased imports of these items from foreign countries with the result of withdrawal of Qunatitative Restrictions on these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The concerned News item is based on the provisional import data of 300 sensitive items for the period April-May, 2001. This data has been released by this Ministry to the press. The total imports of these 300 sensitive items during this period have shown a negative growth rate of 11% compared to the corresponding period of last year. At micro level imports indicate increase in respect of tea, coffee, spices etc. However, the overall import of these items is insignificant as compared to their domestic production. The import data indicate only normal trading activity in response to demand and supply factors. However, the Government is closely monitoring the imports and is determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious injury or detriment to the domestic producers.

Dumping of Chinese goods after the removal of QRs

†195. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign, particularly, Chinese goods have been

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

dumped in the Indian market after three months of lifting Quantitative Restrictions;

(b) if so, whether indigenous industries are being affected due to the same; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are proposing to take?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Anti-Dumping investigations have been initiated against import of four products *viz.* Biaxally Oriented Poly Propylene Film (BOPP Film), Polyester Staple Fibre, Vitamin AB^2D^3K and Acrylic Yarn since 1.4.2001 on the basis of fully documented petitions filed by the domestic industry with sufficient evidence of dumping, injury and casual link between the two, in accordance with our National Law as enshrined in Section 9A, 9B & 9C of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995. So far as China is concerned, Anti-Dumping investigation has been initiated only against one product namely BOPP Film, out of those four products mentioned.

Import of natural rubber

196. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tyre manufacturers have decided to import 30,000 tonnes of natural rubber; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and what would be its impact on the prices of indigenous natural rubber?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) There has been a Press Report that the tyre companies are planning to import 30,000 MT of Natural Rubber. In the Quantitative Restrictions free regime, anybody can import natural rubber after paying the normal applicable duties.

At the current market rates, import of Natural Rubber will be costlier and as such not much import is anticipated. Currently import